



## Memo

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To: Park Board  
From: Park and Recreation Staff  
Date: March 10, 2014  
Subject: Monthly Update

Following are department highlights for February and early March for your review.

1. Director of Business Services, Jamie Brinegar reported:
  - a. The BSO has been very busy over the month with youth soccer and baseball registrations as well as adult volleyball and another wellness session.
    - Tonia:
      - Processed two payroll periods.
      - Processed background checks for coaches for youth soccer and baseball.
      - Boxed up 2013 financials and prepared new folders/files for 2014.
    - Crystal:
      - Processed three claims cycles.
      - Boxed up 2013 financials and prepared new folders/files for 2014.
    - Jessica provided support to staff and customers with Brenda's assistance and also:
      - Processed 642 registrations for the month.
      - Worked with Ben and Department managers on the first draft of the Fun Guide.
      - Helped office staff with any computer issues that popped up.
      - Moved 2013 paperwork into boxes and 2014 into filing cabinets.
    - Jamie:
      - Represented the Department at several meetings (Board of Works, Golf Course proposal, Capital discussions, etc.).
      - Worked with Commons staff, and Commons Board members to put together a "Dash Board" report for The Commons Board.
      - Met with staff to discuss Parks' approach to the Emerald Ash Borer issue.
      - Met with staff to get updates on Parks' capital projects.
      - Worked with staff on internal personnel issues.
2. Kathy McPeck reported the following for Recreation/Events and Administration:

*Fun and Fit at Columbus Gymnastic Center:*

  - a. Open Gym numbers for February were much better than January! We still had a few days of weather related closings, but not as many as January!
    - Pre-school (including MOMS Club & MOPS program): 759
    - Family Open Gym (Th. & Sat. Sessions): 263
    - Ages 7-up: 70
  - b. 214 children are enrolled for Spring Session 1! This is an increase of 50 children over enrollment for Winter Session 2. Spring Session 1 began the week of Feb. 17.
  - c. Columbus Christian pre-school visited us twice in February. A total of 22 children participated in one of the 2 field trips.
  - d. Sandy Hook also visited in February with 10 children attending. They were supposed to come in January, but had to cancel due to a snow day.

- e. 38 children from the Boys/Girls' Club Fun For Youth night visited on Feb. 7 as part of the night's activities.
- f. Club members also visited on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> during yet another snow day out of school. 52 children participated.
- g. The Columbus Power Elite All-Star Cheer Squad will hold its final practice for their 2013-2014 season on Wed, Feb. 26. The group will take a break in March and return for the start of the 2014-2015 season in April.
- h. All available birthday party times for February ended up being rented! A total of 22!!!
- i. All available birthday party times for March have been rented since Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>. A total of 22 parties again! April parties are being scheduled now!
- j. The February Friday Night Family Open Gym drew 66 kids + parents! The next Friday Night Family Open gym will be held on March 28 from 6:30-8pm. Cost is \$3 per child and all children must be accompanied by an adult.

*Recreation – Events/Program/Teens:*

- a. "Mad Scientists!" family science night was held on Friday, Feb. 21. Almost 70 people attended this annual event.
- b. FFY Teens and Teen Council co-hosted a dodge ball tournament on Saturday, Feb. 22 at Foundation for Youth. Approximately 50 teens attended.
- c. The March edition of the Community Cast-A-Ways garage sale on Saturday, March 8th had a full house with all available booth spaces sold out!
- d. The After Prom Committee will hold another meeting on March 10th. Planning is going well for the event that will be held on May 4th at FFY. Donations from business and parents of juniors and seniors are coming in every day!
- e. Information for the 2014-2015 Fun Guide has been finalized and turned in for recreation programs! New summer programs will include: a mini knit camp for ages 5-7, "Happy Holidays" & "Fun in the Sun" day camps for ages 3-7 and a new field trip program "Let's Go To..." with trips to the Wonderlab in Bloomington and Monkey Joe's in Southport for ages 6-12.
- f. The next Columbus Bluegrass Jamboree Concert will be held on Saturday, March 29 at Donner Center. Open jam session begins at 4pm and group performances begin at 5pm. Admission is free and concessions will be available for purchase.
- g. The annual "Kids/Teens Only Garage Sale" will be held on Saturday, April 5th from 9am-1pm. Kids and teens ages 8-18 may register to sell kids and teens items. Fee is \$6 for the first six foot table and \$3 for each additional table.
- h. Planning is also underway for the 37th annual "Festival of the Young Child" that will be held on Saturday, April 26 from 10am-12 noon. This FREE event features booths set up by a variety of local agencies and organizations that provide programs and services for young children from preschoolers through 8 years of age. Each booth features hands-on activities plus information for parents. Sponsors of the event are Columbus Parks & Recreation Dept., Children Inc. and Child Care Answers.
- i. The 4th annual American Girl Doll Day on Feb. 9th went very well! All registered girls were in attendance and thoroughly enjoyed the day! Several of them wanted to know when they could come back and have it again!
- j. The annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 19th at Donner Park. This FREE event will feature hunt areas for ages 1-2 yrs., 3-4 yrs., 5-6 yrs. and 7-8 yrs. The hunt starts at 10:00am sharp!

3. Mark Jones reported the following for the Sports and Athletic Facility Team:

*Programs/Tournaments:*

- a. Spring Soccer – Teams have been formed and coaches meetings are done.
- b. Youth Baseball – Registration ended and we are trying to meet caps. Evaluation day was held on March 8.
- c. Adult Spring Volleyball registration ended.
- d. Adult Winter Volleyball finished.
- e. Soccer referee training was held on March 8.

- f. 2014 tournaments and contracts are being finalized.
- g. We are working closely with the Hamilton Center fundraising group.
- h. The 2014 BCSC/Parks & Recreation facility contract is being finalized.
- i. North/East fastpitch and baseball season starts March 10.
- j. Express soccer season starts March 10.
- k. The annual Park Foundation meeting was hosted by Hamilton Center on Wednesday, February 19. There were over 125 in attendance.

*Athletic Facilities:*

- a. Fighting the bad weather to finish spring soccer layout.
- b. Finishing up indoor winter projects.
- c. Checking inventory and ordering all supplies needed for 2014.
- d. Travis Tindell and the rest of the staff have been doing an outstanding job with the upkeep of Hamilton Center.

*Hamilton Center:*

- a. February was a great month! We have had 10 Birthday parties, with approximately 200 children in attendance. Our private rentals exceeded expectations with 3 school rentals, 7 individual rentals, 7 pre-school rentals and 1 overnigher with well over 700 visitors through the rentals. Included in the rentals were 3 Cummins groups that were doing team building exercises and Seymour Christian School's winter prom, as well as a special visit from Camp Atterbury.
- b. Yoga is picking up as well. We offer Yoga twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays at 9:30am. We are hoping to add more time once renovations are complete. We seem to be getting more and more private rentals of our facility. Wait until you get a load of March!
- c. We are again having a Spring Youth Hockey League and are taking registrations now. We will also be having spring drop-in hockey for Peewees and Bantams on Wednesday evenings through this session.
- d. We are finishing up our Ice Show sign ups, with approximately 93 kids from Parks and Rec group lesson classes participating. The show is scheduled for April 25, 26 and 27. Non-ice show group lesson sign up is currently going on as well as registration for Intro to Hockey classes. We are currently filling up our summer schedule. It is filling up quickly.

4. Casey Ritz reported for Park Operations:

- a. The Maintenance Crew, once again, was one of the crews that did a lot of snow removal in the month of February. They are also cutting the replacement chains for swings in the parks. The crew also finished the new pool entrance sign. We will have to wait for warmer weather to set the sign.
- b. Grounds Crew is the other big crew that was kept busy with snow removal. In between snow falls, they worked on starting some spring cleanup projects like dormant pruning, cutting back perennials and removal of leaves from the beds. They were also able to do some flood clean up.
- c. Cleaning Crew is starting to order in supplies and materials for spring. Another project they have been doing is thawing out trash cans. The winter has even made it harder to remove trash from cans. They also have been a big help with snow removal.
- d. FFY Staff has been doing some maintenance work on the emergency lighting in the building. They also had a fire inspection in the past month and we had to fix and change a few things to pass. The staff did a great job doing what was necessary in a very timely manner.
- e. Donner Maintenance Crew was busy with rentals and parties again. They have been working on preparing the locker rooms for spring. The crew has also been working to prepare Donner Center for all the spring activities that are planned.
- f. The Commons Maintenance Crew performed maintenance on both of the floor scrubbers due to the amount of snow and salt that was brought into the building. They had several field trip groups visiting the playground along with several busy days because of snow days with no school. They also had an art show in the lower lobby, 10 performance space rentals and 47 meetings in the conference rooms.

5. Shanda Sasse reported for The Commons:
  - a. February Events included:
    - 47 non-profit meetings in our two conference rooms
    - 10 rental events (7 private / 3 free to public)
  - b. The Commons hosted two art displays from the 'Above the Influence' initiative and the students at ABC Montessori School.
  - c. A sound system for the Lower Lobby Stage is currently being installed by Clear Sound Design and Dunlap Construction. The new sound system will expand the use of the existing lobby stage for future events.
  - d. Construction is continuing smoothly for the Jordy McTaggart's restaurant.
  - e. Food service space #108 has been thoroughly cleaned as we anticipate the RFP being released very soon.
  - f. Flyer attached describing the "Spring Break Bounce" scheduled for The Commons on March 21, 22 and 23. A free event for children 12 and under and their adult supervision.
6. April Williams' reported the following for Project, Resource Development:

Current projects:

  - Continue working with the Hamilton Center Project Campaign Committee. Working with David Doup and Steve Risting to determine timeline and cash flow for projects.
  - Continue to attend the Arts District Coalition Team and Urban Infrastructure Team Meetings as a committee member.
  - Continue to work with AmeriCorps member and Cummins CIT Leader, Brad Stroia, in implementing the "Adopt A Trail" Program to assist with maintenance of our People Trails. Establishing an "Adopt a Park" Program to assist in the maintenance of Parks. Planning our first Adopt A Trail clean-up during the month of May (Bike Month) to prepare Jonathan Moore Pike trail for the Mayor's Bike to Work Day on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers will be provided by Cummins and Bicycle Station. (I examined the trail over the weekend and this is a much needed task as there is a great deal of trash and debris that has accumulated over the winter on the trail margins. Trash pick-up will be extensive and require a large volume of volunteers to cover the 2 miles of trails. We are grateful to our volunteers for committing to this task to beautify our trails, our City.)
  - Met with Tour de Trails Event committee to plan upcoming events: April 17<sup>th</sup> is the Tour de Trails 8k/5k Run Walk and Kids Fun Run and May 19<sup>th</sup> is our Bicycle Challenge. We hope you and your friends/family will join us. All proceeds assist in underwriting maintenance costs for our People Trail Network.
  - Discussions with the Mayor and Carl Malysz to determine pursuit of the Bicentennial Trust Grant for the Golden Foundry Site development. This project is pending the commitment of developers. Carl is keeping me informed on the status and as we approach the May 1 application deadline, it will be determined if I will be pursuing the grant opportunity of a 1 to 1 match of up to \$300,000.00 to incorporate and preserve green space in the design. The proposed idea is to offer the green space as a therapeutic opportunity for residents of the Memory Care Facility, as well as health benefits to families/residents of the multi-family housing development.
  - The PF Annual Community Meeting was held on February 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8:30 at Hamilton Center. The theme, "This is your Park Foundation for generations to come..." was very well received. There were over 125 guests in attendance. Valparaiso's Parks and Recreation Director, John Seibert was our keynote speaker and shared their past and upcoming, exciting projects that have brought economic benefits to their community. John referred to Columbus as always being a "benchmark" in their growth.
  - Working with Heather Pope, Redevelopment, Kelly Wilson, IUCA+D, CAMPO, and the Urban Infrastructure Team in planning the Downtown Riverwalk Trail project. We will be presenting the proposed plan to all committees in the near future for approval to move forward. This is a very exciting project as it will not only bring contiguity to the existing trail system, but it will allow safe and more efficient access to those using alternative

transportation connecting them to downtown. As indicated from meetings with Cummins teams, this is of great interest to Cummins as it will improve the efficiency of travel time for employees between Cummins locations. Additionally this Riverwalk section will help to improve our opportunity to create a scenic view of our River and with the cooperation of IUCA+D will incorporate art in the design. The art will be visible to those traveling into the City as they cross the Mayor Stewart Bridge. The plan is for this to be an artistic signature, attracting guests to our City.

- The Race2play investor meeting is on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm at Donner. We will be gathering ideas to plan for the anniversary celebration of Race2play and determine ways to provide resources for residents and to remain engaged in the neighborhoods.
- Working with 5<sup>th</sup> Street Yoga owner to plan a fundraising event entitled *Yoga in the Park*.

Thank you for your service!  
April Williams

c: Mayor Kristen Brown  
Councilman Dascal Bunch  
Jeff Logston  
Parks & Recreation FT Employees

# spring break bounce!

at The Commons!

Friday, March 21st

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

QMIX 107.3 will be broadcasting LIVE  
from The Commons from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm.

Stop by and say Hi!

Saturday, March 22nd

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Sunday, March 23rd

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Hey Kids! It's time to bounce our way into Spring! Come join us for a springing good time! Check out the bounce houses or tackle the 40' obstacle course!

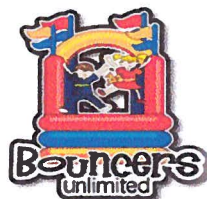
Free and open to children 12 years old and under!  
(and their adult supervision!)

Please do not leave children unattended

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